

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Calopogon barbatus - bearded grass-pink Orchid Family (Orchidaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G4?

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC

Recognition:

- A slender orchid that ranges from 10 to 40 cm tall while flowering; lower stems greenish and upper stems often purplish
- Flowers occur in compact racemes, usually 5 or fewer flowers per raceme
- Flowers open nearly simultaneously, as opposed to in slow succession or all at once
- Petals usually rose pink/magenta, ca 1.1 to 1.6 cm long
- Lip (upright topmost petal) bears a beard of yellow club-shaped hairs, hence the specific epithet and common name
- Leaves 1 (rarely 2), narrow, grass-like, about 2-5 mm wide and 5 to 20 cm long (after flowering leaves can elongate to 40 cm long)

Flowering Time: April

Light Requirement: Full sun to partial shade

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – Usually occurs in wetlands

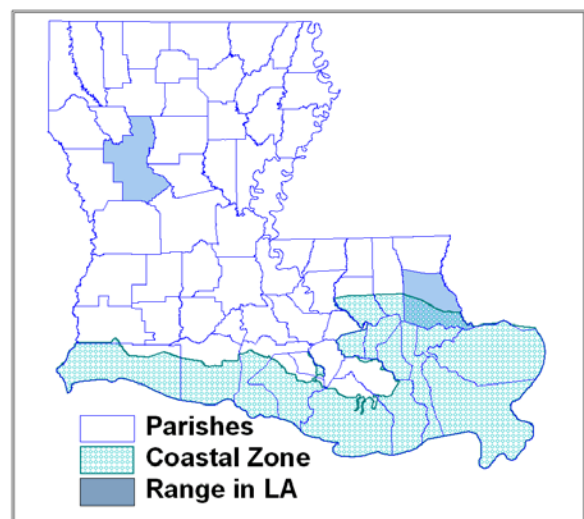
Habitat: Longleaf pine savannahs and hillside seepage bogs.

Threats:

- Conversion of habitat to intensively-managed pine plantations (site prep disturbance and dense tree spacing)
- Fire exclusion or inappropriate timing of fire
- Residential and commercial development
- Lowering of water table or other hydrologic alterations due to ditches, dense tree spacing, etc.
- Rooting by wild hogs



Photo by W. S. Justice, courtesy of Smithsonian Institution



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Beneficial Management Practices:

- Thinning, targeting for removal off-site species such as loblolly and slash pines
- Refrain from creating drainage ditches and plowed fire lines in habitat (prepare fire lines by hand)
- Prescribed burning during April - June
- Minimize soil disturbances that free up growing space for exotics; clean logging equipment prior to entering sites for harvesting to avoid introducing exotics
- Kill more wild hogs

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Calcasieu, Red River

References:

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